

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst [Catalyst] composition represented by the general formula, REVO/S, wherein:

RE is at least one of the group of rare earth metals Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb in an amount of up to 6.0 wt.-%;

V is vanadium in an amount of 0.2-2.5 wt.-%;

O is oxygen in an amount of up to 3.5 wt.-%; and

S is a support containing TiO₂ in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO₃ in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, with the rest being WO₃ and optionally SiO₂ in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%.

2. (Currently Amended) The catalyst ~~Catalyst~~ composition according to claim 1, characterized in that RE is at least one of the group of Pr, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er and particularly one of the group of Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er.

3. (Currently Amended) The catalyst ~~Catalyst~~ composition according to claim 2, characterized in that RE is at least one of Er and Tb.

4. (Currently Amended) The catalyst ~~Catalyst~~ composition according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-3~~, characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount ~~[[or]]~~ of 4-12 wt.-%, particularly in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.

5. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a catalyst composition, comprising:

contacting ~~characterized in that~~ a solid support containing TiO₂ in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO₃ in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and optionally SiO₂ in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%, ~~is contacted~~ with an aqueous solution containing a vanadium salt and a salt of at least one rare earth metal selected from the group of Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb to give a slurry which is brought to dryness and calcined.

6. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a catalyst composition, comprising:

contacting ~~characterized in that~~ a solid support containing TiO₂ in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO₃ in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and optionally SiO₂ in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%, ~~is contacted~~ with a vanadium salt and a hydroxide of at least one rare earth metal selected from the group of Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb to give a slurry which is brought to dryness and calcined.

7. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a catalyst composition, comprising:

~~contacting~~ ~~characterized in that~~ a solid support containing TiO_2 in an amount of at least 70 wt.-%, WO_3 in an amount of 5-20 wt.-%, and optionally SiO_2 in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%, ~~is contacted~~ with a vanadate (REVO_4) of at least one rare earth metal selected from the group of Y, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy, Er and Yb to give a slurry which is brought to dryness and calcined.

8. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 5, characterized in that the rare earth metal is at least one of the group of Pr, Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er and particularly one of the group of Sm, Gd, Tb, Dy and Er.

9. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ according to claim 6, characterized in that the rare earth metal is at least one of Tb and Er.

10. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~Catalyst~~ composition obtainable according to the process of claim 5 ~~a process of one of the claims 5 to 9~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~Catalyst~~ composition according to claim 10, containing:

said rare earth metal in an amount of up to 6.0 wt.-%;

vanadium in an amount of up to 2.5 wt.-%;

oxygen in an amount of up to 3.5 wt.-%;

TiO_2 in an amount of at least 65 wt.-%;

WO_3 in an amount of up to 20 wt.-%; and

optionally SiO₂ in an amount of up to 15 wt.-%.

12. (New) The catalyst composition according to claim 2, characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount of 4-12 wt.-%, particularly in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.

13. (New) The catalyst composition according to claim 3, characterized in that S contains SiO₂ in an amount of 4-12 wt.-%, particularly in an amount of 5-10 wt.-%.

14. (New) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 6.

15. (New) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 7.

16. (New) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 8.

17. (New) A catalyst composition obtainable according to the process of claim 9.